

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, and 15-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 have been allowed.

Claims 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 10-306119 (JP '119).

Applicants have canceled claim 2 and amended claim 5 to depend from claims 1, 3 and 4, which have been allowed. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2 and 5 is moot.

Claims 9-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Isozaki et al. ("Isozaki").

Applicants have amended claim 9 to include the recitations of claim 12, which has been canceled. Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the recitations of claim 14, which has been canceled. Claims 12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter and have not been rejected over Isozaki et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 9-11 and 13 is moot in view of the amendments.

Claims 12 and 14-17 have been objected to as allegedly being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have canceled claims 12 and 14 and have amended claim 15 to depend from claim 13 (which has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 14), which is allowable over Isozaki. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Appln. No.: 10/091,576
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

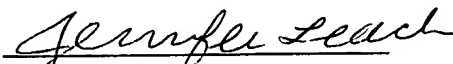
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Jennifer R. Leach
Registration No. 54,257

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